

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the above-identified application, and were rejected in the May 19, 2004 Final Office Action. With this Amendment, claims 1 and 9 were amended. Accordingly, claims 1-19 remain at issue.

I. Objection To Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings, indicating that Figures 22-24 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. Applicants respectfully traverse this objection.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(d), enclosed are replacement sheets for Figures 22-24. The changes to the drawings are to correct the drawings and do not constitute new matter. In particular, Figure 22-24 have been amended to include a "Prior Art" legend. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims

Claims 1-4 and 9-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Uomori (U.S. Patent No. 5,726,704 A) and Sundahl et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,094,215 A). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a stereoscopic-image generating method comprising determining a position of an object in a first image, determining a position of the object in a second image, wherein the first image is picked up with a pickup apparatus in a predetermined first state and the second image is picked up with the pickup apparatus in a second state different from the first state, and moving one of the first image or the second image so that the object in the first image coincides with the object in the second image.

Uomori discloses a stereoscopic image pickup and display apparatus. The apparatus calculates an average value for the parallax over the entire screen or a weighted average value with greater weight at the center of the screen. (See col. 13, lines 61-64). The apparatus shifts one of the images by the average value of the binocular parallax in a direction that cancels the parallax. (See col. 14, lines 27-28). Uomori neither discloses nor suggests moving one of the first image or the second image so that the object in the first image coincides with the object in the second image, as required by claim 1. Thus, it would not be obvious at the time the invention was made to one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize a single image pickup apparatus as taught by Sundahl, in place of the two cameras of Uomori to derive claim 1, or claims 2-4 that depend from claim 1. For reasons similar to those discussed above with regard to claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 9, and claims 10-15 that depend from claim 9 are also allowable over Uomori in view of Sundahl. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 9, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Uomori (U.S. Patent No. 5,726,704 A) and Pritchard et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,157,484 A). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As discussed above, Uomori neither discloses nor suggests moving one of the first image or the second image so that the object in the first image coincides with the object in the second image, as required by claim 1. Thus, it would not be obvious at the time the invention was made to one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize a single image pickup apparatus as taught by Pritchard, in place of the two cameras of Uomori to derive claim 1, or claims 5 and 6 that depend from claim 1. For reasons similar to those discussed above with regard to claim 1, Applicants

respectfully submit that independent claim 9, and claims 16 and 17 that depend from claim 9 are also allowable over Uomori in view of Pritchard. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1, 7, 8, 9, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Uomori (U.S. Patent No. 5,726,704 A) and Lia (U.S. Patent No. 5,222,477 A). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

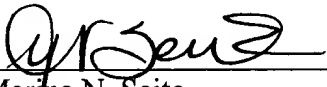
As discussed above, Uomori neither discloses nor suggests moving one of the first image or the second image so that the object in the first image coincides with the object in the second image, as required by claim 1. Thus, it would not be obvious at the time the invention was made to one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize a single image pickup apparatus as taught by Lia, in place of the two cameras of Uomori to derive claim 1, or claims 7 and 8 that depend from claim 1. For reasons similar to those discussed above with regard to claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 9, and claims 18 and 19 that depend from claim 9 are also allowable over Uomori in view of Lia. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all claims are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully request early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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